

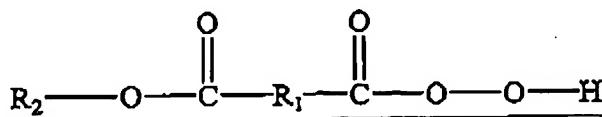
Appl. No. 10/086,912
Response dated Dec. 20, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 20, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A stabilized ester peroxy carboxylic acid composition comprising:

an ester peroxy carboxylic acid having the formula



wherein R1 and R2 are independently an organic group or a substituted organic group;
and

about 0.5 wt-% to about 80 wt-% C₂ or higher alcohol; the C₂ or higher alcohol being suitable for use in food products, for cleaning or sanitizing food processing equipment or materials, for use in a health-care environment, or a combination thereof;

the C₂ or higher alcohol being effective to stabilize the ester peroxy carboxylic acid, without an additional stabilizer, and maintain at least about 30 % of antimicrobial activity of the composition for at least about 3 months;

wherein the composition has no added stabilizer.

2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the C₂ or higher alcohol comprises ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, n-butanol, isobutanol, tert-butanol, pentanol, glycerol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, hexylene glycol, glycerine, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, or a combination thereof.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a surfactant.

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5. (original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the surfactant comprises an alkylbenzene sulfonic acid, an amine oxide, an alkyl sulfonate, an aliphatic alcohol ethoxylate, or a mixture thereof.

6. (original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a buffer.

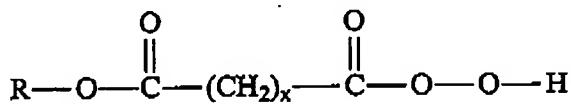
7. (original) The composition of claim 6, wherein the buffer comprises citric acid, citrate salt, phosphoric acid, phosphoric acid salt, succinic acid, succinic acid salt, adipic acid, adipic acid salt, glutaric acid, glutaric acid salt, acetic acid, acetic acid salt, boric acid, boric acid salt, or a mixture thereof.

8. (original) The composition of claim 6, wherein the composition has pH less than about 4.

9-29. (canceled)

30. (new) The composition of claim 1, wherein R1 or R2 is an alkyl, linear, cyclic, aromatic or saturated organic group.

31. (new) The composition of claim 30, wherein ester peroxy carboxylic acid is an alkyl ester peroxy carboxylic acid having the formula



wherein R represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbons and x is 0 to 5.

32. (new) The composition of claim 31 wherein x is 1 to 4.

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33. (new) The composition of claim 32 wherein x is 2, 3 or 4.
34. (new) The composition of claim 31 wherein the alkyl group is a straight chain.
35. (new) The composition of claim 31 wherein the alkyl group is branched.
36. (new) The composition of claim 31 wherein R is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, or isobutyl group.